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09/238,163	01/28/1999	HIROSHI SUMIYAMA	032567-002	6659

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BURNS DOANE SWECKER & MATHIS L L P POST OFFICE BOX 1404 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1404	POKRZYWA, JOSEPH R	
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	09/238,163	SUMIYAMA ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Joseph R. Pokrzywa	2622	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *16 August 2004*.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**.   2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) *1,4 and 6-19* is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) *1,4 and 6-19* is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
    a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1.   Applicant's amendment was received on 8/16/04, and has been entered and made of

record. Currently, **claims 1, 4, and 6-19** are pending.

Response to Arguments

2.   Applicant's arguments, see pages 9 and 10, filed 8/16/04, with respect to the

rejection(s)of independent **claim(s) 1, 16, and 19** under 35 U.S.C.102(b), cited as being

anticipated by Hirata *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,113,520), and independent **claim 10** under 35

U.S.C.103(a), cited as being unpatentable over Hirata *et al.* in view of Hanamoto (U.S. Patent

Number 5,152,001), have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has

been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in

view of Hirata *et al.* and Ohta (U.S. Patent Number 5,448,376).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in
> section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are
> such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person
> having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the
> manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claims 1, 4, 6, 9-13, and 16-19** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Hirata *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,113,520, cited in the Office action dated

5/17/04) in view of Ohta (U.S. Patent Number 5,448,376).

Regarding *claim 1*, Hirata discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising a first

memory for storing image data (print data memory 45, column 2, lines 49 through 55), an image

input unit for inputting the image data to the first memory (column 1, lines 44 through 54, and

column 3, line 57 through column 4, line 44), a second memory for storing image forming

conditions (key buffer 41, column 2, lines 39 through 44, column 2, lines 65 through 68, and

column 3, lines 36 through 48), an image output unit for printing the image data stored in the

first memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 3, lines

4 through 48, and column 6, lines 37 through 44), command unit for generating a command of

discarding the image data being printed from the image output unit (cancel key 19, column 4,

lines 50 through 64), an image data discarding controller (CPU 30) for discarding the image data

stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the

command unit (column 2, lines 24 through 55, and column 4, lines 58 through 64), while

maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 4,

lines 50 through 64, and column 6, lines 37 through 51), a job stopping controller for stopping a

print operation of a job being printed by the image output unit (being the job within the print

reservation memory 46, column 2, lines 39 through 56, column 4, lies 45 through 64, and column

6, lines 29 through 51), and an output control means for causing the output unit to output image

data newly input from the image input unit under the maintained image forming conditions

(column 4, lines 37 through 57, wherein as seen in Fig. 3B, at step S260, when an execute print

key is pressed, image data which was newly input by the image input unit, noted as the keyboard 10, is printed during the printing routine in step S290), wherein the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller (column 2, lines 24 through 55, and column 4, lines 58 through 64), and wherein the image data discarding controller discards the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and maintains the image forming conditions of the job (column 4, lines 50 through 64, and column 6, lines 37 through 51).

However, Hirata fails to expressly disclose of causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions.

Ohta discloses an image forming apparatus (see Figs. 1 and 2), comprising a first memory for storing image data (image memory 2 and 13, seen in Figs. 1 and 2, column 4, lines 7-41, and column 5, lines 7-27), an image input unit for inputting the image data to the first memory (scanner 9, column 4, line 62-column 5, line 27), a second memory for storing image forming conditions (parameter ROM 11, column 4, lines 7-65), an image output unit for printing the image data stored in the first memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory (printer 14, column 4, line 66-column 5, line 46), command unit for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed from the image output unit (column 8, lines 3-19), and an output control means for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions (column 8, lines 3-41).

Hirata & Ohta are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that print scanned data based on conditions stored in a memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to consider Hirata's system to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions, as recognized by Ohta. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata's system would become more efficient with the addition of Ohta's teachings, since image forming parameters would not need to be reloaded for each newly input image, as recognized by Ohta in column 1, line 37-column 2, line 59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Ohta with the system of Hirata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Regarding *claim 4*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and Hirata further teaches of means for changing the maintained image forming conditions (column 2, lines 11 through 68, and column 3, lines 20 through 56).

Regarding *claim 6*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed above in claim 1, and Ohta further teaches that the image input unit is an image reader for reading the image from the original and acquiring the image data, wherein the image output unit and the image reader operate independently (see Figs. 1 and 2, and column 4, line 42-column 5, line 27).

Hirata & Ohta are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that print scanned data based on conditions stored in a memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to have Hirata's system further include an image reader that operates independently of the output unit, as

recognized by Ohta. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata's

system would become more user-friendly with the addition of Ohta's teachings, since scanning

functions and printing functions would be performed independently through the same apparatus,

as recognized by Ohta in column 1, line 37-column 2, line 59. Therefore, it would have been

obvious to combine the teachings of Ohta with the system of Hirata to obtain the invention as

specified in claim 6.

Regarding *claim 9*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 1, and Hirata further teaches that the image output unit is a printer for printing an

image on a paper based on the image data (column 3, lines 4 through 17).

Regarding *claim 10*, Hirata discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising an image

reader for acquiring image data of an original (column 1, lines 31 through 54), an image memory

for storing image data acquired by the image reader (print data memory 45, column 2, lines 49

through 55), a mode memory for storing image forming conditions selected for the acquired

image data (key buffer 41, column 2, lines 39 through 44, column 2, lines 65 through 68, and

column 3, lines 36 through 48), a printer for printing an image on paper, based on the image data

stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the mode memory

(column 3, lines 4 through 48, and column 6, lines 37 through 44), a command unit for

generating a command of discarding the image data being printed by the printer (cancel key 19,

column 4, lines 50 through 64), an image data discarding controller (CPU 30) for discarding the

image data stored in the image memory when the command of discarding the image data is

generated by the command unit (column 2, lines 24 through 55, and column 4, lines 58 through

64), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the mode memory

(column 4, lines 50 through 64, and column 6, lines 37 through 51), and a job stopping controller

for stopping a print operation of a job being printed by the printer (being the job within the print

reservation memory 46, column 2, lines 39 through 56, column 4, lines 45 through 64, and

column 6, lines 29 through 51), wherein the command unit generates a command of discarding

the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller (column 2, lines 24 through 55,

and column 4, lines 58 through 64), and wherein the image data discarding controller discards

the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller and maintains the image forming

conditions of the job (column 4, lines 50 through 64, and column 6, lines 37 through 51).

However, Hirata fails to expressly disclose of an image reader for reading an original and

acquiring image data of the original, and a print control unit for causing the printer to print

another image data newly read by the image reader under the maintained image forming

conditions in the mode memory. Further, Hirata fails to expressly disclose of causing the printer

to print another image data newly read by the image reader after the discarding of image data

from the image memory under the maintained image forming conditions.

Ohta discloses an image forming apparatus (see Figs. 1 and 2), comprising an image

reader for reading an original and acquiring by the image reader (scanner 9, column 4, line 62-

column 5, line 27), an image memory for storing image data acquired by the image reader (image

memory 2 and 13, seen in Figs. 1 and 2, column 4, lines 7-41, and column 5, lines 7-27), a mode

memory for storing image forming conditions selected for the acquired image data (parameter

ROM 11, column 4, lines 7-65), a printer for printing an image on a paper, based on the image

data stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions in the mode memory

(printer 14, column 4, line 66-column 5, line 46), command unit for generating a command of

discarding the image data being printed by the printer (column 8, lines 3-19), and an print control

unit for causing the printer to print another image data newly read by the image reader after the

discarding of image data from the image memory under the maintained image forming

conditions in the mode memory (column 8, lines 3-41).

Hirata & Ohta are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being

systems that print scanned data based on conditions stored in a memory. At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to consider Hirata's

system to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image

data from the image memory under the maintained image forming conditions, as recognized by

Ohta. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata's system would

become more efficient with the addition of Ohta's teachings, since image forming parameters

would not need to be reloaded for each newly input image, as recognized by Ohta in column 1,

line 37-column 2, line 59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of

Ohta with the system of Hirata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Regarding *claim 11*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 10, and Hirata further teaches of a changing means for changing the maintained

image forming conditions (column 2, lines 11 through 68, and column 3, lines 20 through 56).

Regarding *claim 12*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 10, and Hirata further teaches that the image reader and the printer operate

independently (column 1, lines 37 through 54), and the image memory stores image data for a

plurality of jobs (column 2, lines 39 through 64, and column 5, lines 6 through 66).

Regarding *claim 13*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 12, and Hirata further teaches of a print control unit that gives priority to a new

job for printing under the maintained forming conditions over the rest of the jobs on a waiting

list (column 5, line 15 through column 6, line 28).

Regarding *claim 16*, Hirata discloses an image forming method, comprising storing

image data in an image memory (print data memory 45, column 2, lines 49 through 55), storing

image forming conditions for the image data in a memory (key buffer 41, column 2, lines 39

through 44, column 2, lines 65 through 68, and column 3, lines 36 through 48), printing an image

on a paper (column 3, lines 4 through 17), based on the image data stored in the image memory,

under the image forming conditions stored in the memory (column 3, lines 20 through 48, and

column 6, lines 37 through 44), generating a command of discarding the image data whose

image is being printed (cancel key 19, column 4, lines 50 through 64), stopping a print operation

of the image data being printed and erasing the image data from the image memory in response

to the command, while maintaining the associated image forming conditions in the memory

(column 4, lines 50 through 64, and column 6, lines 37 through 51), acquiring new image data

and storing the new image data and storing the new image data in the image memory (column 5,

line 54 through column 6, line 36), and printing a new image on a paper, based on the newly

acquired image data, under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory (column 6,

lines 37 through 51, whereby as seen in Fig. 3B, at step S260, when an execute print key is

pressed, image data which was newly input by the image input unit, noted as the keyboard 10, is

printed during the printing routine in step S290).

However, Hirata fails to expressly disclose of printing a new image on paper based on the new image data acquired after the discarding of image data from the image memory, under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory.

Ohta discloses an image forming method (see Fig. 1), comprising storing image data in an image memory (image memory 2 and 13, seen in Figs. 1 and 2, column 4, lines 7-41, and column 5, lines 7-27), storing image forming conditions for the image data in a memory (parameter ROM 11, column 4, lines 7-65), printing an image on a paper, based on the image data stored in the image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the memory (via printer 14, column 4, line 66-column 5, line 46), generating a command of discarding the image data whose image is being printed (column 8, lines 3-19), and printing a new image on a paper, based on the new image data acquired after the discarding of image data from the image memory, under the image forming conditions maintained in the memory (column 8, lines 3-41).

Hirata & Ohta are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being systems that print scanned data based on conditions stored in a memory. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to consider Hirata's system to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions, as recognized by Ohta. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata's system would become more efficient with the addition of Ohta's teachings; since image forming parameters would not need to be reloaded for each newly input image, as recognized by Ohta in column 1, line 37-column 2, line 59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Ohta with the system of Hirata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 16.

Regarding *claim 17*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming method discussed above in claim 16, and Hirata further teaches of the step of changing the maintained image forming conditions (column 2, lines 11 through 68, and column 3, lines 20 through 56).

Regarding *claim 18*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming method discussed above in claim 16, and Hirata further teaches of the step of printing image data of another print job on a waiting list after the newly acquired image data has completely been printed (column 5, line 15 through column 6, line 51).

Regarding *claim 19*, Hirata discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising a first memory for storing image data (print data memory 45, column 2, lines 49 through 55), a second memory for storing image forming conditions (key buffer 41, column 2, lines 39 through 44, column 2, lines 65 through 68, and column 3, lines 36 through 48), an image output unit for printing the image data stored in a first memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 3, lines 4 through 48, and column 6, lines 37 through 44), a command unit for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed from the image output unit (cancel key 19, column 4, lines 50 through 64), an image data discarding controller (CPU 30) for discarding the image data stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command means (column 2, lines 24 through 55, and column 4, lines 58 through 64), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 4, lines 50 through 64, and column 6, lines 37 through 51), and a job stopping controller for stopping a print operation of a job being printed by the image output unit (being the job within the print reservation memory 46, column 2, lines 39 through 56, column 4, lies 45 through 64, and column 6, lines 29 through 51), wherein the command unit generates a

command of discarding the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller (column

2, lines 24 through 55, and column 4, lines 58 through 64), and wherein the image data

discarding controller discards the image data of the job stopped by the job stopping controller

and maintains the image forming conditions of the job (column 4, lines 50 through 64, and

column 6, lines 37 through 51), an image input unit for inputting image data to the first memory

(column 1, lines 44 through 54, and column 3, line 57 through column 4, line 44), and an output

control unit for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from the image input

unit under the maintained image forming conditions (column 4, lines 37 through 57), wherein the

first memory stores a plurality of image data, and the output control means gives priority to the

newly inputted image data to be printed under the maintained image forming conditions over the

rest of the image data (column 3, line 36 through column 4, line 57, whereby as seen in Fig. 3B,

at step S260, when an execute print key is pressed, image data which was newly input by the

image input unit, noted as the keyboard 10, is printed during the printing routine in step S290).

However, Hirata fails to expressly disclose of causing the output unit to output image

data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first

memory under the maintained image forming conditions.

Ohta discloses an image forming apparatus (see Figs. 1 and 2), comprising a first memory

for storing image data (image memory 2 and 13, seen in Figs. 1 and 2, column 4, lines 7-41, and

column 5, lines 7-27), a second memory for storing image forming conditions (parameter ROM

11, column 4, lines 7-65), an image output unit for printing the image data stored in the first

memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory (printer 14, column 4,

line 66-column 5, line 46), command unit for generating a command of discarding the image

data being printed from the image output unit (column 8, lines 3-19), an image input unit for

inputting the image data to the first memory (scanner 9, column 4, line 62-column 5, line 27),

and an output control means for causing the output unit to output image data newly input from

the image input unit after the discarding of image data from the first memory under the

maintained image forming conditions (column 8, lines 3-41).

Hirata & Ohta are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor, being

systems that print scanned data based on conditions stored in a memory. At the time of the

invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to consider Hirata's

system to output image data newly input from the image input unit after the discarding of image

data from the first memory under the maintained image forming conditions, as recognized by

Ohta. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata's system would

become more efficient with the addition of Ohta's teachings, since image forming parameters

would not need to be reloaded for each newly input image, as recognized by Ohta in column 1,

line 37-column 2, line 59. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of

Ohta with the system of Hirata to obtain the invention as specified in claim 19.

5.   **Claims 7, 8, 14, and 15** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Hirata *et al.* (U.S. Patent Number 5,113,520, cited in the Office action dated 5/17/04) in view of

Ohta (U.S. Patent Number 5,448,376), and further in view of Hanamoto (U.S. Patent Number

5,152,001, cited in the Office action dated 5/17/04).

Regarding *claim 7*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 6, but fail to expressly disclose if when the image reader is reading another

original, the command unit generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed.

Hanamoto discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising a first memory for storing image data (electrical load 54, column 40 through 53), a second memory for storing image forming conditions (column 2, lines 20 through 38, and column 4, lines 48 through 57), an image output unit for printing the image data stored in the first memory under the image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 3, lines 17 through 54), a command unit for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed from the image output unit (column 4, lines 8 through 35), an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command unit (column 4, lines 8 through 60), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the second memory (column 4, lines 8 through 35). Further, Hanamoto teaches that the image input unit is an image reader for reading the image from the original and acquiring the image data (column 3, lines 32 through 47), wherein the image output unit and the image reader operate independently (column 3, lines 17 through 47). Additionally, Hanamoto teaches that the image reader is reading another original, the command unit generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed (column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 60, and column 6, lines 8 through 57).

Hirata, Ohta, & Hanamoto are combinable because they are each in the same field of endeavor, as they all are systems that process input data, and they print an image on paper as an output. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art to modify Hirata and Ohta's system with the teachings of Hanamoto. The

suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata and Ohta's system would

become more widely used, since image data would be able to be input through a scanner, as

recognized by Hanamoto, therein allowing users to process more types of image data. Therefore,

it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hanamoto with the system of Hirata and

Ohta to obtain the invention as specified in claim 7.

Regarding *claim 8*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 6, but fail to expressly disclose if when the image reader is reading another

original, the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed after

the reading operation for another original has been completed.

Hanamoto discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising a first memory for storing

image data (electrical load 54, column 40 through 53), a second memory for storing image

forming conditions (column 2, lines 20 through 38, and column 4, lines 48 through 57), an image

output unit for printing the image data stored in the first memory under the image forming

conditions stored in the second memory (column 3, lines 17 through 54), a command unit for

generating a command of discarding the image data being printed from the image output unit

(column 4, lines 8 through 35), an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data

stored in the first memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the

command unit (column 4, lines 8 through 60), while maintaining the associated image forming

conditions stored in the second memory (column 4, lines 8 through 35). Further, Hanamoto

teaches that the image input unit is an image reader for reading the image from the original and

acquiring the image data (column 3, lines 32 through 47), wherein the image output unit and the

image reader operate independently (column 3, lines 17 through 47). Additionally, Hanamoto

further teaches that if the image reader is reading another original, the command unit generates a

command of discarding the image data to be printed after the reading operation for another

original has been completed (column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 60, and column 6, lines 8

through 57).

Hirata, Ohta, & Hanamoto are combinable because they are each in the same field of

endeavor, as they all are systems that process input data, and they print an image on paper as an

output. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art to modify Hirata and Ohta's system with the teachings of Hanamoto. The

suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata and Ohta's system would

become more widely used, since image data would be able to be input through a scanner, as

recognized by Hanamoto, therein allowing users to process more types of image data. Therefore,

it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hanamoto with the system of Hirata and

Ohta to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

Regarding *claim 14*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 12, but fail to expressly disclose if the image reader is reading another original,

the command unit generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same

time, it generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed.

Hanamoto discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising an image reader for reading

an original and acquiring image data of an original (column 3, lines 17 through 54), a mode

memory for storing image forming conditions selected for the acquired image data (read-write

memory 55), a printer for printing an image on paper, based on the image data stored in the

image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the mode memory (column 3, line 48 through column 4, line 35), a command unit for generating a command of discarding the image data being printed by the printer (column 4, lines 8 through 35), an image data discarding controller for discarding the image data stored in the image memory when the command of discarding the image data is generated by the command unit (column 4, lines 8 through 60), while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the mode memory (column 4, lines 8 through 35), and a print control unit for causing the printer to print another image data newly read by the image reader under the maintained image forming conditions in the mode memory (column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 60, and column 5, lines 24 through 63).

Further, Hanamoto teaches that if the image reader is reading another original, the command unit generates a command of suspending the reading operation, and at the same time, it generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed (column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 60, and column 6, lines 8 through 57).

Hirata, Ohta, & Hanamoto are combinable because they are each in the same field of endeavor, as they all are systems that process input data, and they print an image on paper as an output. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify Hirata and Ohta's system with the teachings of Hanamoto. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata and Ohta's system would become more widely used, since image data would be able to be input through a scanner, as recognized by Hanamoto, therein allowing users to process more types of image data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hanamoto with the system of Hirata and Ohta to obtain the invention as specified in claim 14.

Regarding *claim 15*, Hirata and Ohta disclose the image forming apparatus discussed

above in claim 12, but fail to expressly disclose if the image reader is reading another original,

the command unit generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed after the

reading operation for another original has been completed.

Hanamoto discloses an image forming apparatus, comprising an image reader for reading

an original and acquiring image data of an original (column 3, lines 17 through 54), a mode

memory for storing image forming conditions selected for the acquired image data (read-write

memory 55), a printer for printing an image on paper, based on the image data stored in the

image memory, under the image forming conditions stored in the mode memory (column 3, line

48 through column 4, line 35), a command unit for generating a command of discarding the

image data being printed by the printer (column 4, lines 8 through 35), an image data discarding

controller for discarding the image data stored in the image memory when the command of

discarding the image data is generated by the command unit (column 4, lines 8 through 60),

while maintaining the associated image forming conditions stored in the mode memory (column

4, lines 8 through 35), and a print control unit for causing the printer to print another image data

newly read by the image reader under the maintained image forming conditions in the mode

memory (column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 60, and column 5, lines 24 through 63).

Further, Hanamoto teaches that if the image reader is reading another original, the

command unit generates a command of discarding the image data to be printed after the reading

operation for another original has been completed (column 3, line 32 through column 4, line 60,

and column 6, lines 8 through 57).

Hirata, Ohta, & Hanamoto are combinable because they are each in the same field of

endeavor, as they all are systems that process input data, and they print an image on paper as an

output. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art to modify Hirata and Ohta's system with the teachings of Hanamoto. The

suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that Hirata and Ohta's system would

become more widely used, since image data would be able to be input through a scanner, as

recognized by Hanamoto, therein allowing users to process more types of image data. Therefore,

it would have been obvious to combine the teachings of Hanamoto with the system of Hirata and

Ohta to obtain the invention as specified in claim 15.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's

disclosure:

       Yoshida (U.S. Patent Number 5,422,729) discloses a system that stores information in a

memory and prints image data based on the stored information; and

       Takayanagi (U.S. Patent Number 5,251,297) discloses a printing system that includes an

image data storing memory and a parameter storing memory.

Conclusion

7.   Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this

Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a).

Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

       A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE

MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO

MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after

the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period

will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37

CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event,

however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this
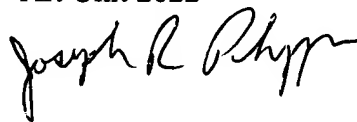
final action.

8.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the

examiner should be directed to Joe Pokrzywa whose telephone number is (703) 305-0146. The

examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 7:30-4:00.

       If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Edward L. Coles can be reached on (703) 305-4712. The fax phone number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished

applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR

system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Joseph R. Pokrzywa
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

jrp